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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01
HA-05 FDRE-00 OIC-02 AGRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /126 W
----------000656 281932Z /46
O 281916Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2679
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 29,
UNDRO; REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 190314; (B) GENEVA 10982; (C) STATE 172848;
(D) GENEVA 10289; (E) GENEVA 10154

1. THIS DELEGATION'S JULY 11 STATEMENT ON UNDRO
(REFTEL B) WAS MADE TAKING IN ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING
BACKGROUND.

2. LAST YEAR, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, THE US DELEGATION
TO THE 63RD ECOSOC SUPPORTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S
RECOMMENDATION TO TRANSFER TO THE REGULAR BUDGET 34
PERCENT OF THOSE UNDRO CORE EXPENSES THEN BEING MET
FROM THE VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND. (WE WERE, IN FACT,
AUTHORIZED TO GO UP TO 50 PERCENT). SIMILAR INSTRUC-
TIONS (UNEC D.486/77 AND STATE 285404 OF 1977) WERE
GIVEN TO THE US DELEGATION TO THE 32ND GA, WHICH
ACCOMPLISHED THE 34 PERCENT TRANSFER IN FIFTH
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COMMITTEE BUDGET RESOLUTION 32/213 AND WHICH ALSO
ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS RESOLUTION 32/56 THAT DECIDED TO
EXAMINE THE FINANCING OF UNDRO'S CORE PROGRAM FURTHER
AT THE 33RD GA "WITH A VIEW TO INCLUDING IN THE DRAFT
PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-81 PROPOSALS FOR
A FURTHER TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE COSTS FROM VOLUNTARY
FUNDING TO THE UN REGULAR BUDGET".

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3. THE US POSITION OF "UP TO 50 PERCENT" DERIVED FROM AN EFFORT TO RECONCILE TWO CONFLICTING INTERESTS: (1) OUR DESIRE TO HOLD DOWN THE REGULAR BUDGET AND (2) OUR DESIRE TO RATIONALIZE AND GIVE GREATER ASSURANCE TO THE SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR UNDRO CORE EXPENSES AND OUR INTEREST IN SPREADING AMONG ALL UN MEMBERS THE FINANCIAL BURDEN BEING CARRIED BY A SMALL GROUP OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORS. OUR CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT US WAS SYMPATHETIC TO FURTHER TRANSFERS OF THIS SORT PHASED SO AS TO HAVE A MINIMAL IMPACT ON THE UN REGULAR BUDGET IN ANY GIVEN BUDGET PERIOD. FOR EXAMPLE, WE REFER TO UNEC D-486/77 OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1977 WHICH STATED "ALL NECESSARY STEPS MUST BE TAKEN BY THAT TIME (DECEMBER 31, 1979) TO SHIFT UNDRO CORE PROGRAM FINANCING COMPLETELY TO REGULAR BUDGET". WE ALSO REFER TO THE STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE JULY 3-4, 1978 GENEVA UNDRO DONOR CONFERENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US WOULD SUPPORT THE TRANSFER OF A "SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER" OF UNDRO POSITIONS TO THE REGULAR BUDGET (REFTEL E).

4. WITH THIS BACKGROUND, WE COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S REFERENCE IN REFTEL C TO THE "US TRADITIONAL POSITION" ON THE REGULAR BUDGET ALSO HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR ESTABLISHED AND PUBLIC POSITION ON UNDRO.
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WE ALSO ASSUMED THAT OUR RESERVATION WAS TO BE EXPRESSED IN THE EVENT WE WERE FACED WITH A RESOLUTION (WHICH DID NOT EVENTUATE) THAT WOULD HAVE RECOMMENDED THE TRANSFER OF ALL REPEAT ALL REMAINING CORE EXPENSES, AND THAT OUR PROBLEM WAS WITH DOING THIS "SO HASTILY" AS TO HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE 1979 BUDGET. WE SEE NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION AND OUR POSITION FAVORING SUCH TRANSFERS OVER TIME. (THIS IS ALL WE HAD TO GO ON SINCE WE DID NOT HAVE A NEW POSITION PAPER FOR THIS ECOSOC.)

5. THUS WE CONSIDER OUR LOW-KEY STATEMENT WHICH ADDRESSED RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SOME DELEGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE 1980-81 BIENNIUM (AND NOT 1979) TO BE COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THE FORE-GOING, NAMELY: "THEREFORE, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRA-TIVE AND RELATED COSTS OF SOME ADDITIONAL POSITIONS."

6. WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT (1) UNDRO'S INCREASED CORE EXPENSES STEM DIRECTLY FROM GA RES 3243 (XXIX) OF 1974, WHICH WAS A US INITIATIVE; (2) WHILE

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THE US HAS CONTINUED TO BE ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND, WE NOW MAINTAIN OUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL; (3) THE REMAINING 75 PERCENT IS CONTRIBUTED BY A HANDFUL OF OTHER DONORS (NETHERLANDS, NORDICS, UK, ETC.) WHO ARE THUS CONTRIBUTING PROPORTIONATELY FAR IN EXCESS OF THEIR REGULAR BUDGET RATIO AND WHO ARE NATURALLY EAGER TO SHIFT THIS BURDEN TO THE REGULAR BUDGET; (4) US OPPOSITION TO SUCH A SHIFT WOULD REPRESENT NO FINANCIAL SACRIFICE FOR THE US BUT WOULD PERPETUATE THE DISPRO-PORTIONATE BURDEN ON OUR FELLOW DONORS.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE UNDRO ITEM IN THE THIRD

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FDRE-00
ABF-01 AGRE-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HEW-04 /130 W
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COMMITTEE IS CLOSED, AND ALL THAT REMAINS IS ROUTINE PLENARY ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION APPROVED IN COMMITTEE (WHICH DOES NOT REPEAT NOT ADDRESS THE CORE EXPENSE QUESTION). FOR US TO TAKE AT THIS JUNCTURE THE AWKWARD STEP OF MAKING A FORMAL STATEMENT "CLARIFYING" OUR JULY 11 STATEMENT, UNRELATED AS IT WAS TO THE RESOLUTION AT HAND, WOULD ATTRACT UNDUE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND SIGNAL AN INCONSISTENCY IN THE US POSITION. MORE-OVER, IT WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED FOR THE REASONS GIVEN IN PARA 6 ABOVE. TO GO THE ADDITIONAL LENGTH OF HAVING A CORRECTION ISSUED TO AN OBSCURE PARAGRAPH IN AN EMINENTLY FORGETABLE UN PRESS RELEASE STRIKES US AS COMPOUNDING THE ISSUE. IN ANY EVENT, THE QUESTION IS LARGELY ACADEMIC SINCE THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED DOES

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NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

8. FOR THESE REASONS, THE DELEGATION URGES THE DEPARTMENT TO RECONSIDER THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL A. WE WILL INDEED TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CAREFULLY EDIT THE SUMMARY OF OUR REMARKS APPEARING IN THE ECOSOC RECORDS - WHICH ARE THE ONLY RECORDS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNT. WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL BE SUFFICIENT.

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